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Amendment dated January 17, 2008
Reply to Office Action of July 20, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 6-8 and 11-28 are pending in this application, of which claims 6, 12 and 18 have been amended and claims 23-28 are newly-added. Claims 9-10 have been canceled.

Claims 6-9, 12, 15, 18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§102(e) as anticipated by U. S. Patent 6,220,870 to Barabi et al. (hereafter "**Barabi et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Barabi et al. discloses an I/C chip socket with a separate docking platform having a seating surface with an array of locator openings for receiving and fixing the position of the I/O contacts of an I/C chip such as the solder balls of a BGA. The docking platform is depressibly mounted in the base portion of the socket over the tips of an array of pogo pins. The docking platform acts to precisely center the I/O contacts of the I/C chip seated thereon with the pogo pin tips.

Although the Examiner has urged that **Barabi et al.** discloses a through hole having a constant diameter, as recited in claim 9, we cannot find an explicit disclosure of this feature in the specification of **Barabi et al.**, but FIGS. 6A and 6B appear to show such a constant diameter for the interior of spring barrel 95. If this is so, then **Barabi et al.** fails to teach, mention or suggest that the through hole tapers from the first end toward the second end, as recited in claim 10.

Accordingly, claims 9 and 10 have been canceled while the limitation of claim 10 has been added to claim 6. Thus, the 35 U.S.C.§102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 6, 10-14, 16-20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.§102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,831,530 to Tate (hereafter "**Tate**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Tate discloses a test socket including a contactor having a distal end which is received within tapered retainer for guiding the distal end of the contactor into a terminal

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housing having a counterbore such that movement of the distal end of the contactor is restricted

by the counterbore of the terminal is disclosed.

The Examiner has urged that **Tate** discloses that the through hole tapers from the first

end toward the second end.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Although retainer 30 has tapered inner wall 38,

interior wall 36 of the terminal housing appears to have a constant diameter.

Thus, **Tate** fails to disclose a through hole which tapers from the first end toward the

second end, as recited in the amendment to claim 6, attached hereto.

Furthermore, **Tate** discloses coil spring 22 arranged inside the interior wall of the

terminal housing. This is in contrast to the present invention, in which the spring member

surrounds an outer surface of the columnar member, as shown, for example, in FIG. 2.

Accordingly, claims 12 and 18 have been amended to recite this distinction.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C.§102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

The specification has been amended to eliminate improper references to specific

claim numbers.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 6-8

and 11-28, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is

requested.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an

appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any

other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Dated: January 17, 2008   Respectfully submitted,

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